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DWS News Release

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UTAH'S EMPLOYMENT SITUATION: April 2008

SALT LAKE CITY - Utah's nonfarm wage and salaried job growth for April is estimated at 2.0 percent. March's employment growth remains unrevised at 2.1 percent. Approximately 24,800 new jobs have been created in the Utah economy over the past year, raising total wage and salary employment in Utah to 1,272,500. This increase translates to around 2,000 new jobs created monthly over the past year.

Since April 2007, the United States' economy has added 381,000 new jobs—a growth rate of only 0.3 percent. Its trend continues to point downward. The approximately 24,800 new jobs in Utah represent about 6.5 percent of all the new jobs added in the United States over the past year—this from a state that comprises less than 1 percent of all United States jobs.

Utah's other primary indicator of current labor market conditions, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate, measured 3.1 percent in April, down from March's somewhat anomalistic 3.3 percent measure. Approximately 42,700 Utahns were considered unemployed in April, compared against 34,400 last April. The United States' unemployment rate moved down one-tenth of a percentage point to 5.0 percent.

Mark Knold, chief economist for the Department of Workforce Services, commented, "While the United States economy struggles to keep itself out of or just barely in recession, Utah's economy remains on better footing. Yes, housing-related construction and housing-related activities are currently a drag on economic growth and will likely remain so for the remainder of this year. But that sector currently seems isolated, as the rest of Utah's economy is showing resiliency. Most of its industrial sectors are still vibrant and adding jobs. The economy is anchored by job gains in industries that are less susceptible to swings in the business cycle—healthcare, education, and government. Yet even cyclical industries like leisure and hospitality, and manufacturing are still growing in the state. Nationally, this is a consumer-lead recession. Job losses undermine the consumer most, while job gains support their strength. Utah's job gains and the continued outlook for more are the state's strongest foundation in supporting Utah consumers and why this state has a better chance of staying above the national recession."

Over the past year, growth rates across most Utah industries have slowed, but this would naturally be expected in the face of a national recession. Utah has unique features that give its economy strength that generally transcends the national level, but Utah does not function in isolation and is influenced by national trends just like any other state. That is why the current overall slowing of the Utah economy is both expected and unavoidable.

Utah Labor Market Indicators **April 2008**

Employment Growth: 2.0%
Employment Increase: 24,800
Unemployment Rate: 3.1%

United States

Employment Growth: 0.3%
Unemployment Rate: 5.0%

Several industries that are less vulnerable to changes in the business cycle have not experienced a weakening in job growth over the past year. The leader here is the education and healthcare sector, not that it has added the most new jobs over the past year, but instead that its growth rate of 4 percent is so steady and consistent. And not just over the past year, but largely every year throughout this decade. The sector added 5,700 new jobs over the past year—the second highest new job count in the state.

Government is another sector that is less affected by changes in the business climate. Its growth is more dependent upon either population growth and/or demographic trends. For example, Utah's current baby boom sets the stage for K-12 teacher growth rates to rise consistently as this cohort ages its way through the Utah education system over the next 15 years. Government yearly employment growth rates are generally consistent at between 1 percent and 1.5 percent (Utah's current rate is 1.5 percent). This amounts to 3,300 new jobs added over the past year, with most of this at or below the county level (cities, school districts, municipal districts).

The trade, transportation, and utilities sector added the most new jobs in Utah over the past year—7,500—but it is one of those industries that is influenced by the business cycle. Most of this job growth is at the retail trade level, which is the primary point where consumer dollars are transacted. But as we see nationally, consumers are the flash point of the current economic environment, so this presents the potential for future volatility in this industry. Utah's current retail trade expansion is living off of the recent, but past, housing boom, (household expansions translate into retail expansions), which has hit a temporary but rapid pause. When you couple that slowdown with high gasoline prices competing for the disposable consumer dollar—which cause consumers to often shift away from other retail purchases to compensate—then one concludes that this sector faces a difficult path toward further strong growth.

Manufacturing is also sensitive to the business cycle, but for several years in Utah it has been bucking the national trend by adding jobs. It currently shows 2,400 new jobs added in Utah over the past year, but recent layoff and closure announcements remind us of the vulnerable nature of this industry to national influences.

Even with Utah's employment growth slowing, an unemployment rate of only 3.1 percent still signals an economy not only absorbing new workers, but also searching for workers. We still hear of the need for highly skilled workers like engineers in this state. Welders and machinists are also often mentioned. The shortfalls in the latter two occupations are consequences of a long-term national trend. Nationwide, over the past 40 years, manufacturing and production jobs have been downsized and workers replaced by technological advancements. Even though these jobs don't hold the percentage of the economy that they used to, a generation of labor has aggressively discounted its opportunities and has collectively steered away from its training and potential career possibilities. The consequences of that are coming home to roost as the existing pool of these laborers are closing in on retirement en masse. This collective negative psychology and avoidance is now producing a shortage of workers in these often-called middle, yet technical, skill areas. As a result, opportunities are increasing in these skilled occupations that pay a life-supporting wage.

*** Utah's April seasonally-adjusted unemployment rates by county are scheduled for release on Tuesday, May 20, 2008. <http://jobs.utah.gov/opencms/wi/pubs/une/season.pdf>**

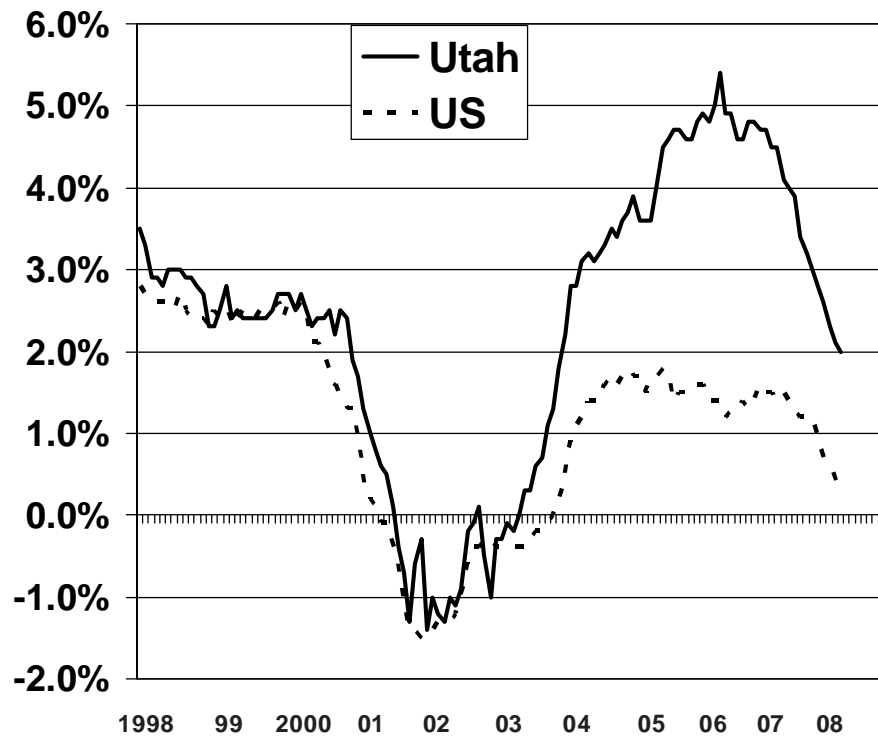
*** Utah's May employment numbers will be released at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, June 17, 2008.**

Utah Nonagricultural Jobs by Industry and Components of the Labor Force

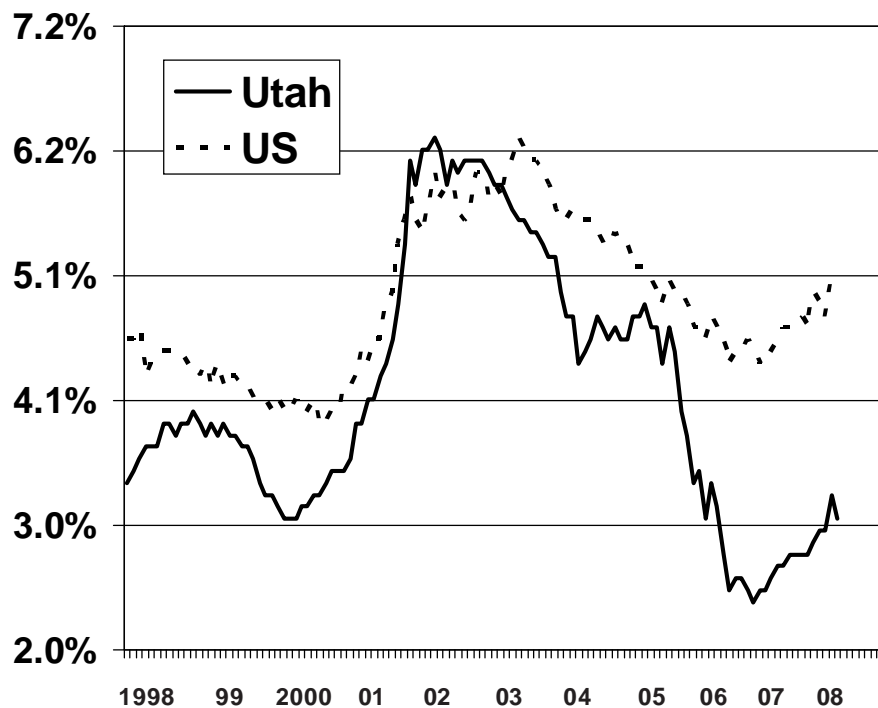
Numbers are in thousands	Apr.(f) 2008	Apr. 2007	Percentage Change	Mar.(r) 2008	Mar. 2007	Percentage Change
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE (seasonally-adjusted)	1,384.8	1,351.2	2.5	1,394.0	1,346.3	3.5
Employed	1,342.1	1,316.8	1.9	1,347.8	1,313.3	2.6
Unemployed	42.7	34.4	24.1	46.2	33.0	40.0
Unemployment Rate	3.1	2.5		3.3	2.4	
NONAGRICULTURAL EMPLOYMENT (Thousands)	1,272.5	1,247.7	2.0	1,264.9	1,238.7	2.1
Not seasonally-adjusted						
GOODS PRODUCING	239.5	239.7	-0.1	237.7	236.7	0.4
Natural Resources, and Mining	11.4	10.9	4.3	11.3	10.8	4.6
Construction	99.1	102.1	-3.0	97.2	99.3	-2.1
Construction of Buildings	20.8	21.8	-4.4	20.5	21.2	-3.3
Heavy and Civil Engineering	11.3	10.8	4.2	10.5	10.0	
Specialty Trade Contractors	67.0	69.5	-3.7	66.2	68.1	-2.8
Manufacturing	129.1	126.7	1.9	129.2	126.6	2.1
Durable Goods	87.6	86.6	1.1	87.8	86.6	1.4
Primary and Fabricated Metals	16.7	16.3	2.5	16.7	16.2	2.7
Computer and Electronic Products	13.1	12.4	5.9	13.2	12.4	6.4
Transportation and Equipment Manufacturing	14.3	14.8	-3.3	14.4	14.9	-3.8
Non-Durable Goods	41.4	40.0	3.6	41.4	40.0	3.6
SERVICES PROVIDING	1,032.9	1,007.8	2.5	1,027.2	1,001.8	2.5
Trade, Transportation, and Utilities	249.3	241.8	3.1	248.6	241.9	2.8
Wholesale Trade	48.7	46.6	4.4	48.5	46.6	4.0
Retail Trade	149.3	145.0	2.9	149.0	144.7	3.0
Motor Vehicle and Parts Dealers	19.4	18.6	3.9	19.1	18.3	4.1
Food and Beverage Stores	23.6	23.1	2.5	23.7	23.1	2.6
General Merchandise Stores	27.5	27.1	1.5	28.2	27.7	1.8
Transportation and Utilities	50.7	50.2	1.1	51.2	50.6	1.1
Utilities	4.2	4.1	2.0	4.1	4.0	2.0
Transportation & Warehousing	46.5	46.1	1.0	47.0	46.5	1.0
Air Transportation	7.3	7.0	4.0	7.3	7.0	4.4
Truck Transportation	19.0	18.8	0.8	19.1	19.0	0.8
Information	31.9	32.3	-1.2	31.7	32.2	-1.7
Publishing Industries	10.0	9.8	1.7	10.1	9.9	1.6
Motion Picture and Sound Recording	4.1	4.0	0.2	3.9	3.8	2.7
Telecommunications	6.7	7.5	-10.6	6.8	7.6	-10.6
Internet Service Providers	4.9	4.9	0.1	4.9	4.9	0.5
Financial Activities	75.2	74.8	0.4	75.1	74.6	0.6
Finance and Insurance	56.7	56.5	0.3	56.6	56.3	0.6
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	18.4	18.3	0.7	18.5	18.3	0.9
Professional and Business Services	164.4	159.6	3.0	161.5	156.3	3.3
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	68.2	64.7	5.4	67.4	64.0	5.3
Architectural, Engineering, and Related	13.9	12.9	7.6	13.6	12.6	8.3
Computer Systems Design and Related	15.6	14.5	7.4	15.2	14.1	8.1
Management of Companies and Enterprises	20.8	20.0	4.0	20.8	20.0	4.1
Administration & Support						
& Waste Management & Remediation	75.4	74.9	0.7	73.3	72.4	1.2
Employment Services	23.3	23.9	-2.7	23.0	23.4	-1.9
Business Support Services	15.4	16.6	-7.0	15.7	17.0	-7.5
Education and Health Services	146.1	140.4	4.0	145.6	139.8	4.1
Educational Services	33.7	32.8	2.8	33.9	33.0	2.5
Health Services and Social Assistance	112.3	107.6	4.4	111.8	106.8	4.7
Ambulatory Health Care Services	44.6	42.7	4.4	44.2	42.3	4.5
Hospitals	31.1	29.2	6.5	31.0	29.3	5.7
Nursing and Residential Care Facilities	21.0	20.4	3.1	21.0	19.9	5.3
Social Assistance	15.6	15.3	2.0	15.6	15.3	2.3
Leisure and Hospitality	117.6	113.9	3.3	116.9	113.3	3.2
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	19.7	19.3	2.2	19.1	18.7	2.2
Accommodation and Food Services	97.8	94.6	3.5	97.9	94.6	3.4
Accommodation	18.5	18.3	1.4	18.8	18.5	1.4
Food Services and Drinking Places	79.3	76.3	4.0	79.1	76.1	3.9
Other Services	35.9	35.1	2.5	35.9	34.9	2.8
Government	213.2	209.9	1.5	211.9	208.7	1.5
Federal Government	35.2	35.8	-1.5	35.1	35.7	-1.5
Federal Defense	15.8	16.3	-3.4	16.0	16.3	-1.9
Other Federal Government	19.5	19.5	0.1	19.2	19.4	-1.1
State Government	64.8	64.0	1.2	64.9	64.1	1.2
State Schools	36.4	35.9	1.4	36.7	36.2	1.4
Other State Government	28.3	28.1	0.9	28.2	28.0	0.9
Local Government	113.2	110.2	2.7	111.9	108.9	2.7
Local Education	65.2	64.2	1.7	65.3	64.2	1.6
Other Local Government	47.9	46.0	4.2	46.6	44.7	4.3

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services f = forecast r = revised May 13, 2008

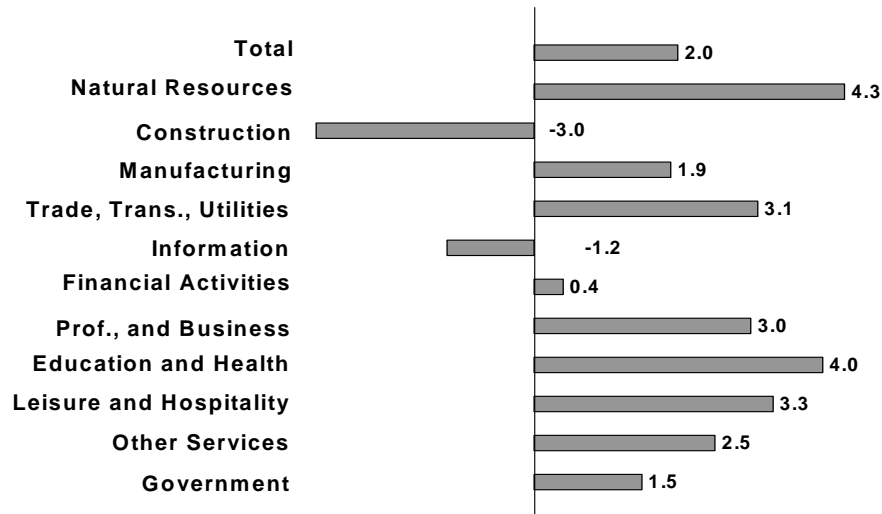
Year-Over Percent Change in Nonfarm Jobs



Seasonally Adjusted Unemployment Rates

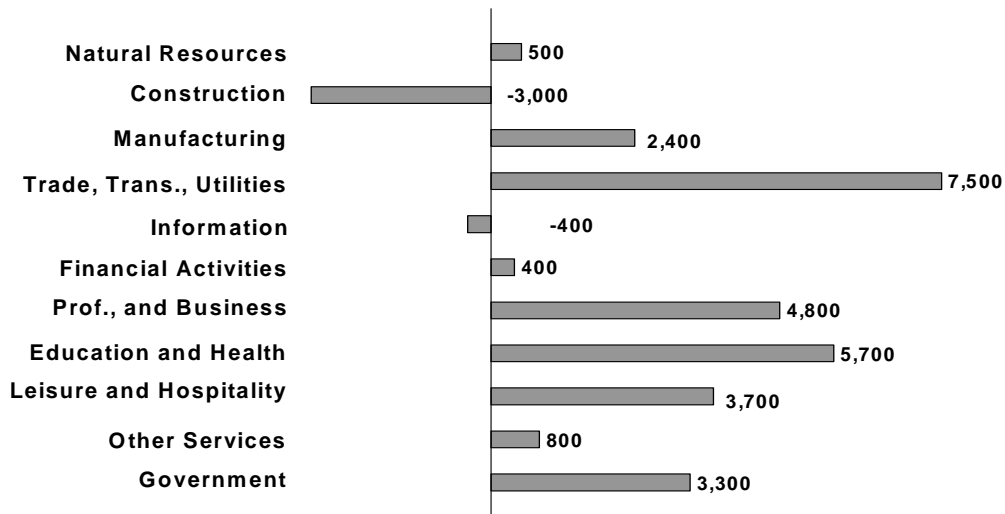


Utah Nonfarm Industry Profile (Percent Change) April 2007 – 2008



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

Utah Nonfarm Industry Profile (Numeric Change) April 2007 – 2008



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services

NONFARM EMPLOYMENT IN UTAH'S COUNTIES

	Apr. 2008(f)	Apr. 2007	Percent Change	Mar. 2008(r)	Feb. 2008(r)
State Total	1,272,451	1,247,678	2.0	1,264,825	1,255,355
Bear River	73,042	70,900	3.0	72,358	71,436
Box Elder	20,634	20,009	3.1	20,889	20,417
Cache	51,700	50,231	2.9	50,800	50,350
Rich	708	660	7.3	668	669
Wasatch Front	828,915	813,120	1.9	823,786	818,249
North	204,424	201,141	1.6	202,308	200,260
Davis	104,501	103,337	1.1	102,693	101,586
Morgan	2,023	1,957	3.4	1,994	1,967
Weber	97,900	95,847	2.1	97,621	96,707
South	624,491	611,979	2.0	621,478	617,989
Salt Lake	608,513	596,518	2.0	605,517	602,189
Tooele	15,978	15,461	3.3	15,961	15,800
Mountainland	221,412	216,685	2.2	221,317	220,616
Summit	23,870	22,908	4.2	25,056	25,525
Utah	190,239	186,908	1.8	189,108	187,903
Wasatch	7,303	6,869	6.3	7,153	7,188
Central	24,529	24,443	0.3	24,380	24,305
Juab	3,312	3,515	-5.8	3,283	3,382
Millard	3,930	3,972	-1.1	3,910	3,926
Piute	372	349	6.5	348	360
Sanpete	7,789	7,611	2.3	7,769	7,697
Sevier	8,024	7,932	1.2	8,055	7,974
Wayne	1,101	1,064	3.5	1,014	965
Southwestern	79,316	78,210	1.4	78,468	77,401
Beaver	2,088	2,067	1.0	2,041	2,019
Garfield	2,468	2,354	4.8	2,040	1,937
Iron	17,052	17,267	-1.2	17,207	17,098
Kane	3,190	3,107	2.7	3,022	2,895
Washington	54,517	53,415	2.1	54,157	53,453
Uintah Basin	22,844	21,804	4.8	22,773	22,463
Daggett	517	508	1.9	436	371
Duchesne	7,768	7,197	7.9	7,746	7,697
Uintah	14,559	14,099	3.3	14,591	14,395
Southeastern	22,393	22,516	-0.5	21,743	20,885
Carbon	9,110	9,502	-4.1	8,892	8,835
Emery	3,870	3,896	-0.7	3,894	3,843
Grand	5,034	4,902	2.7	4,666	4,045
San Juan	4,380	4,216	3.9	4,291	4,162

f = forecast r = revised but not final.

Note: Numbers have been left unrounded for convenience rather than to denote accuracy.

Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services, Workforce Information, 5/13/08